Water for irrigation in Gujarat

724. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that Gujarat is giving major emphasis on minor irrigation works to augment the availability of water for irrigation to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have received the proposal from the State Government of Gujarat under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(c) if so, the details and status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat for Minor Irrigation Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) till date.

(c) Does not arise.

Revamping of Water Management

725. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has in a recent report portrayed a very dismal picture of the future of water resources and water management in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to revamp the water management in the country so that India does not face water famine as apprehended in the World Bank report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Mr. John Briscoe of the World Bank has recently prepared a draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future". The report is based on study conducted by the World Bank on its own. The report in

general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to;

(i) adjusting to the needs of a changing India;

(ii) adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;

(iii) dealing with growing conflicts;

(iv) maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure;

(v) building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under served public puposes;

(vi) making the transition from development to management and development;

(vii) revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future; and

(viii) charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

Most of issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and State Governments.

(c) The National Water Policy, 2002 clearly states that drought prone areas should be made less vulnerable to drought associated problems through soil-moisture conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimization of evaporation losses, development of the ground water potential including recharging and the transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate and pastures, forestry or other modes of development which are relatively less water demanding should be encouraged. The National Water Policy further states that in planning water resource development projects, the needs of drought prone areas should be given priority.

Project for inland water ways in Kerala

726. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala submitted a project for the inland water ways in Kerala;